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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Dulie Tong (or Cough

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Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Carlos M. Collazo

Application No.: 09/976,368

Filed: October 12, 2001

For: SYSTEM-WIDE OPTIMIZATION

INTEGRATION MODEL

Art Unit: 2121

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following amended paragraph in the specification. A marked-up version of the changes to the specification is attached to this amendment.